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|---|---|---------------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Request For Continued Examination Transmittal</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Address to: Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: -100px;">  U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE AUG 19 2004 </p> | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><i>Application Number</i></td> <td>10/015,778</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Filing Date</i></td> <td>December 17, 2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>First Named Inventor</i></td> <td>Douglas D. Sjostrom</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Group Art Unit</i></td> <td>3731</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Examiner Name</i></td> <td>Vi X. Nguyen</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Attorney Docket Number</i></td> <td>00167-456001</td> </tr> </table> | <i>Application Number</i> | 10/015,778 | <i>Filing Date</i> | December 17, 2001 | <i>First Named Inventor</i> | Douglas D. Sjostrom | <i>Group Art Unit</i> | 3731 | <i>Examiner Name</i> | Vi X. Nguyen | <i>Attorney Docket Number</i> | 00167-456001 |
| <i>Application Number</i> | 10/015,778 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Filing Date</i> | December 17, 2001 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>First Named Inventor</i> | Douglas D. Sjostrom | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Group Art Unit</i> | 3731 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Examiner Name</i> | Vi X. Nguyen | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Attorney Docket Number</i> | 00167-456001 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Scott B. Markow | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 46,899 |
| Signature |  | Date | August 19, 2004 |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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|-------------------|--|------|--|
| Name (Print/Type) | | | |
| Signature | | Date | |



Attorney's Docket No.: 00167-456001 / 02-31-0386

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Douglas D. Sjostrom
Serial No. : 10/015,778
Filed : December 17, 2001
Title : CUTTING INSTRUMENT

Art Unit : 3731
Examiner : Vi X. Nguyen

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as indicated on the following pages.